The Sun.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1878.

The regular circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending Aug. 3, 1878, was:*

Sunday	111,501	Weekly	72,265
Monday	110,844	Thursday	110,879
Tuesday	109,290	Friday	111,211
Wednesday	111,020	Saturday	113,078

Total for the week 850,088

A Friendly Challenge.

The *Herald* of yesterday contains the following passage:

"We believe, and have reason to believe, that the daily circulation of the *Herald* is larger than that of any other daily newspaper in the United States."

We believe and have reason to believe that our esteemed contemporary is mistaken.

But, by way of testing the accuracy of our esteemed contemporary's belief, we propose that the actual daily circulation of the *Herald* and that of THE DAILY SUN for May, June, and July, 1878, shall be ascertained by a committee consisting of Messrs. ERASTUS BROOKS, GEORGE JONES, and DAVID M. STONE. They shall have access to all the books, papers, and offices of the two establishments, in order to ascertain all the facts, and shall employ their own methods of ascertaining them; and their report shall be published, the day after it is filed, at the head of the editorial columns in each paper.

If the *Herald* is thus proved to have had a larger daily circulation than THE SUN during the three months in question, we will immediately pay one thousand dollars into the treasury of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and if THE SUN is found to have had a larger circulation than the *Herald*, then Mr. BENNETT shall pay one thousand dollars into that treasury.

Famine and Plenty.

While we are engaged in harvesting perhaps the largest crops with which the country has ever been blessed, destructive famines and droughts are prevailing in other parts of the earth and bringing misery and death to millions of people. The famine of India, in 1872 and 1873, which followed the failure of the rice crop, was one of the most extensive and appalling of which we have any record, but the vigorous measures of relief instituted and carried out by the British Government greatly lessened its disastrous effects and finally enabled the regions it afflicted to overcome the enemy.

The terrible famine which is now devastating densely populated provinces of China, however, has for about a year been left to pursue its course, with little to check the progress beyond the operation of natural causes. The local Governors and the Imperial Government have offered some relief to the distressed people, but it has been of comparatively small amount. Aid has also been furnished by private benevolence, but that has gone a very little way toward alleviating the shocking misery which is visiting the victims of one of the direst famines that ever occurred.

The seat of the famine is in the northeastern provinces of the empire, the impoverished country consisting of the greater part of the Province of Shansi, parts of southwestern Chili, western Shantung, and the northern districts of Honan, comprising an area variously estimated at from seventy thousand to a hundred thousand square miles, inhabited by from fifty millions to a hundred millions of people. Happily, the latest news from Hong Kong, up to July 14, reports that the rains, which had already begun at the time of the just previous accounts to alleviate the distress, were then continuing and reviving the hopes of the famished people, who at length could hail the prospect of a fair harvest. Meantime, however, the suffering continues, and it must last for a long time yet.

The greatest distress has been in the southern half of Shansi, including the provincial capital, Tai Yuen, and the prefecture in which that city is situated has diminished in population from over 1,000,000 to about 160,000. In an appeal for aid addressed to the Imperial Government last March by the Governor of Honan and the commissioner for famine relief of that province, the history of the calamity was briefly told. For several years in succession the region had suffered from a severe drought, which finally culminated in a famine of an intensity and extent theretofore unheard of. When last autumn came with almost no crops at all, the people who were already dreadfully impoverished, began to suffer bitterly and generally for lack of food, and before winter was over the number of those in need of relief increased so rapidly that at last they numbered millions. The lower, or rather poorer classes, of course, were the first to feel the effects of the calamity, and they abandoned their homes by thousands, in the search for subsistence in regions not so afflicted. But by spring the famine had also attacked the well-to-do and the wealthy, who were soon reduced to a starving condition. In the early period of the distress the living fed upon the bodies of the dead; next the strong devoured the weak, and at last the famished wretches ate up those of their own flesh and blood. At the time of the memorial, the local sources of supplies of food were entirely exhausted, the granaries were empty, the treasury was drained dry, and the few wealthy people in the provinces had impoverished themselves by their contributions and loans to help the awful distress.

Letters from foreign missionaries received at Shanghai, which is not seven hundred miles from the afflicted district, fully bore out these statements. The sturdy Chinese peasants do not fold their hands, as the inhabitants of Madras did during their great famine, but they make a wild fight for life, and if they cannot find the dead ready at hand to eat, they do not hesitate in their frenzy to butcher the living to satisfy their cravings. The Chinese newspapers give the number of people who have died of starvation or been killed to appease the hunger of the living at over five millions.

Droughts have also done serious injury in Egypt, Australia, Morocco, and Spain, and the ravages of the locusts in Madras have been so extensive that the Government of the province has telegraphed for extra famine officers. The United States Consul at Tangier reports the presence of a terrible famine in southern Morocco, due to the long prevailing drought. He speaks of the suffering among the people as indescribable, and says the cattle are dying off by thousands. Cows are driven into Tangier and sold for a dollar. It is estimated that in Australia, during the droughts of last summer and this summer, 9,000,000 sheep perished. From Egypt we hear that the cotton crop is expected to be deficient in both quantity and quality.

Meantime we have the promise in our cotton-growing States of a crop of this great staple which will exceed even that of the year 1859, the richest they had then ever known. The estimated production of cotton in 1859 was about four millions of bales, while this year it is confidently expected that the crop will be somewhere between four and five millions of bales.

The Proposed Euphrates Valley Railway.

Whatever may be the political results of the Anglo-Turkish treaty, it seems likely to give considerable stimulus to the commercial development of Asia Minor. That the rates of house rent in Beirut should have at once gone up attests what deduction Levantine traders have been prompt to draw from the British occupation of Cyprus. To them the new state of things implied an influx of British capital into the Sultan's Asiatic dominions, and facts were not long wanting to justify the inference. We were presently told that a railway traversing Anatolia from the coast opposite Cyprus to Trebizond on the Black sea had been already projected, more, however, for strategic than commercial purposes; and now we hear that at a meeting of London capitalists it was resolved to organize forthwith the survey of a route for a transcontinental line from the head of the Persian gulf to some Levantine seaport by way of the Euphrates valley.

When we call to mind that the most opulent and populous countries of the ancient world—Assyria, Babylonia, Mesopotamia—are all subject to the control of the Porte, and would more or less directly be thrown open to trade by a Euphrates railway, we can recognize the importance of the enterprise. So long ago as 1856, when the Sultan, after the close of the Crimean war, began his career of wholesale borrowing, it was proposed to unlock this fertile region by an iron road from Bassorah across the whole empire of the Osmanli in Asia to Scutari upon the Bosporus. But the proceeds of the colossal loans were embezzled by the Pashas, or absorbed by their master's building mania and less reputable caprices, so that no part of the great Anatolian Railway was completed, except a first section of some sixty miles from Scutari to Izmid. This, with the two lines from Smyrna to Aidin and Alacheher, which aggregate about 170 miles, and a short road intended to connect Broussa, the old Turkish capital, with the harbor town of Mondania on the Euxine, constitute the whole length of track at present constructed or under way within Asiatic Turkey.

Long before the completion of the Suez canal, however, English statesmen had felt the necessity of seeking a route between London and Calcutta shorter than that by the Cape of Good Hope, which exacted several months. Nearly a century ago Lord WELLESLEY organized a bimonthly mail service by boats from Bombay to Bassorah, from which city despatches were conveyed by Arabs mounted on dromedaries to Aleppo, to be thence carried by Tartars on horseback to Constantinople. This method of communication, being at once costly and precarious, was after a time abandoned; but for forty years English engineers and superior officers have been studying a mode of transit which, starting from some point on the Syrian coast, should strike the Euphrates or Tigris, and, following the channel of one or the other river, abut at Bassorah, or at the Persian port of Bushire. Here we may say, by way of parenthesis, that the distance from Antioch in a straight line viâ Aleppo to the nearest point of the upper Euphrates is only about 130 miles. During the years 1835-36 Col. CHESNEY executed a complete survey of the Euphrates valley and contiguous countries, and in 1857 he obtained from the Porte a concession for an iron road from the Persian gulf to the mouth of the Orontes on the Mediterranean, the Turkish Government guaranteeing 5 per cent. interest on the sum invested. Col. CHESNEY's scheme miscarried, but his fundamental idea gradually took hold of the public mind; and even after the piercing of the Suez isthmus, a direct route between India and the Levant retained so much importance in the eyes of statesmen, that the House of Commons ordered a special commission, of which Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE was chairman, to study the several projects which had been suggested. The report of this commission, which was printed in 1872, named five different routes as particularly worthy of attention, four of which start from Alexandretta, and follow some the valley of the Euphrates, others that of the Tigris, the former route being obviously shorter, but the latter, according to the commission, traversing more populous and fruitful regions. The cost of the road, as estimated at that time—six years ago—was fifty millions of dollars. It was further demonstrated that the railway, as compared with the Suez route, would abridge the time of transport from London to Bombay at least four, and probably not less than seven or eight days. Notwithstanding, however, the favorable report of the commission, the English Government seemed to renounce provisionally the execution of the plan.

It is certain that for twenty years since the concession was granted to Col. CHESNEY the wretched population of Anatolia have watched for the *kara papor*, or "black smoke," as for the coming of a Messiah. The tax collector has constantly held before their eyes, by way of promise and consolation, the iron road which the Commander of the Faithful had conferred upon his subjects. But of late the fulfilment of the pledge has seemed to be adjourned by the Sultan's bankruptcy to an extremely remote future. Indeed, it required nothing less than a war which shook to its foundations the fabric of Ottoman power, and the masterful stroke of statecraft by which BEACONSFIELD restored prestige to England, to make the scheme of a Euphrates Valley Railroad at last practicable and probable.

The Case of Miss Heuser.

Miss LOUISE HEUSER, a girl of seventeen, formerly of this city, has resided at Milton, on the Hudson, since last November. Dr. HASBROUCK of Milton married a sister of Miss HEUSER, and she has been staying at his house.

On the Fourth of July Miss HEUSER went to a picnic, from which she returned alone about nine o'clock in the evening. Dr. HASBROUCK and his wife were at the time absent from the house. On their return home some time later they found Miss HEUSER lying on the floor, stripped of her clothing, with a chloroformed sponge bound over her mouth.

An occurrence so extraordinary necessarily gave rise to many conjectures.

One theory was that Miss HEUSER herself, in a state of hysteria, had removed her clothing and tied the sponge to her mouth. This seems very improbable, and overlooks the innate sense of modesty, which even in hysteria is not likely to be wholly lost.

It was said that Miss HEUSER had been very exclusive, and that some young women in the neighborhood, piqued by her manner, might have played the trick to spite her. In support of this view and also of the other, namely, that Miss HEUSER did it all herself, it was remarked that the several articles of her clothing, on being removed, had been carefully laid on chairs, as nobody but a woman would have placed them.

A third conjecture was that the outrage had been committed by men, who were ultimately frightened away by the return of the family.

Miss HEUSER's own account of the occurrence was that on entering the house she sat down at the piano and struck a few notes, when she heard a voice. She turned around to the door. There stood two men. They were masked. Great black cloths were tied around their heads. She was too frightened to scream, but tried to reach the window. One of the two men, whom she describes as "the tall man," came toward her. She dodged behind the table. He attempted to catch her, and soon succeeded. Seizing her by the arm, he held her, with her back toward him, and put a sponge to her face. She could not say what was on the sponge. She pushed it away twice, when she became dreamy "and unconscious like," and had the same feeling a person has who goes to sleep against her will. She remembered being lifted from the floor, and that was the last she remembered until she came to.

The case was involved in the deepest mystery until the 26th ultimo, when Miss HEUSER was sitting at her window. A gentleman was passing by. Suddenly Miss HEUSER called out to her sister: "LIZZIE, there is a man who resembles in every way the tall man who assaulted me on the Fourth of July. Who is he?" This tall man proved to be one Dr. MILLAR, a foreigner, who, for a short time, had practised medicine in Milton, but had relinquished practice and was boarding at a private house a few miles from the village.

On the strength of this identification, Dr. MILLAR was arrested, and on the first day of this month was arraigned before a Justice of the Peace at Milton, charged with assault with intent to violate the person. Miss HEUSER, under oath, expressed the opinion very firmly that he was the man who assaulted her. She particularly noticed his height; his thin face, the shape of which the black mask did not wholly conceal; his small foot, and delicate hand. She was entirely confident he was the man. Miss HEUSER's sister, Mrs. HASBROUCK, confirmed Miss HEUSER's statement about her first recognition of Dr. MILLAR in the street, when suddenly, for some unexplained reason, the testimony for the prosecution was brought to a close.

The Justice thereupon discharged Dr. MILLAR, on the ground that the evidence that Miss HEUSER had been found on the floor, with her clothes stripped off, had not been put in, and the prosecution refused to put it in. The counsel for Dr. MILLAR made the point that the binding and chloroforming of a woman was no evidence of an intent to violate the person, as these might have been done for the purpose of robbery, and the Justice considered the point well taken. Dr. MILLAR himself denounced the whole thing as a conspiracy to ruin him, and professed to have ample evidence to establish an alibi.

On all these facts it may be remarked that if the original outrage on Miss HEUSER was strange and mysterious, these latest proceedings are not less so. The Justice might certainly have held Dr. MILLAR for simple assault had he understood the law and thought proper to hold him, without the evidence of the condition in which Miss HEUSER was found. But why was not this evidence put in? What was the cause of the sudden break in the progress of the prosecution?

A special telegram to the *World* of yesterday represents Dr. HASBROUCK as saying that he is heartily sick of the whole matter. But it is too late for Dr. HASBROUCK to be allowed to get sick of it and relinquish it now. The terrible accusation against Dr. MILLAR should be sustained or withdrawn, and that speedily. The public have an interest in the affair now, and they have rights which none of the parties at this stage of the proceedings can be permitted to disregard. Our courts are not established to afford opportunity for charges like that against Dr. MILLAR to be lightly preferred. If there was not a good foundation for his arrest, it was atrocious to make it; and if there was a good foundation, all the evidence should have been put in, and he should have been afforded ample opportunity to refute it.

We have seen no intimation, from any quarter, that Miss HEUSER's testimony is not entitled to entire confidence unless she is really laboring under a delusion.

The detective employed by Dr. HASBROUCK advances the theory, seemingly as ridiculous as it is monstrous, that the plan was to murder Miss HEUSER, and sell her beautiful body for dissection!

It is to be hoped that the deep mystery hanging over the whole transaction, from the beginning to its present stage, will soon be cleared away, in some manner, and all the facts, as they really exist, be brought to light.

An English Philosopher on Catholicism.

One of the striking phenomena of the time is the revolution in the attitude of cultivated Englishmen toward the Roman Catholic Church. The large, candid, sympathetic spirit which MACAULAY was among the first to exhibit, and which has gradually infused a singular mildness into the tone of polemical discussion, seems to culminate in an article communicated by the English apostle of sweetness and light to the current number of the *Fortnightly Review*. The specific object of this paper is to dissuade English Liberals from further opposition to the foundation of a Catholic university in Ireland, but in the course of his plea MATTHEW ARNOLD is led to make some interesting remarks concerning the essential qualities and the prospects of Catholicism.

This essayist, who may perhaps be called the most perfect exponent of English culture, begins by pointing out an error which he says British Liberals have in common with Continental Radicals. The mistake consists in always regarding what is accidental, mischievous, impossible in Catholicism, rather than what is natural, amiable, likely to endure. While it may be no cure for the bondage and misery of the world to be told that the Pope is infallible, or that miracles happen, yet a wonderful alleviation has been found for some two thousand years to lie in the word, the character, and the influence of JESUS, and we are urged to fix our view upon this simple source, common to Catholics and Protestants, of Christianity's power and permanence. Greeks, Catholics, and Protestants alike have adapted the source to their use according to lights often imperfect, have carried its healing waters by strange conduits, and piled around it fantastic superstructures. But, after their fashion, all have used it; and whenever their faith is treated, because of their mishandling, as an obsolete nuisance, to be wiped out, a profound sentiment within them rebels against the outrage, because they are conscious, not so much of their religion's outward disfigurements, as of its essential benignity.

Undoubtedly, says Mr. ARNOLD, Catholicism is that form of Christianity which is fullest of human accretions and superstitions, because it is the oldest, largest, and most popular. The bulk of its superstitions come from its having really plunged so far down into the multitude and spread so wide among them. If this is a cause of error, Mr. ARNOLD insists that it is also a cause of attachment. We are reminded that Catholicism has in such sort enveloped human life, that Catholics feel themselves to have drawn not their religion only, but with it their art and poetry and culture, from the Church. He shows how a second hold was acquired upon the popular imagination from the fact that the Roman hierarchy, originally stamped with the character of an orderly and beneficent authority springing up amid anarchy, next appeared as disclosing a career where birth was disregarded and physical force unheeded, and intellectual and moral worth esteemed in the midst of the iron feudal age. It is further suggested by the essayist that if there is anything essentially alien to religion, it is divisions; while if there is anything congenial, it is peace and union. Hence, in his opinion, the original attraction toward unity in Rome, and the sovereign fascination for men's minds of that unity when attained. Such are the specific spells for the imagination which, according to MATTHEW ARNOLD, Catholicism has for Catholics, in addition to the charm and power which he considers common to all forms of Christianity.

Of course, no disinterested and judicious observer, writing from an Anglican and Liberal point of view, would seek to deny or to disguise, in the case of the Catholic Church, the accretions and superstitions gathered round the curative religious germ. After referring to the temptations and dangers which the system of the Roman hierarchy has carried with it in the past, Mr. ARNOLD dwells at length on a salient difficulty of our time, namely, the inevitable drift, as the individuality of European nations has ripened, toward a collision between national unity and the unity in Rome. These are hindrances which he would have English Liberals combat, not forgetting, however, that to the mass of Catholics they present themselves by a good side, and not a bad one. Moreover, in a modern community they meet with natural counteractions of great power, such as the diffusion of education, the control of a constitutional government, the vigilance and the authority of public opinion. The essayist believes that the national sense can be relied on to assert itself against that dependence on government of foreigners which the Ultramontane system is accused of bringing with it. In his judgment, too, religion itself, like human society, follows a law of growth, which in a sound and progressive community may be trusted to clear away accumulated superfluities.

But when what Mr. ARNOLD describes as Ultramontanism, Sacerdotalism, and Superstition are gone, what, he asks, is left to Catholicism beyond the germ of stimulus and solace which it possesses in common with the Protestant forms of Christianity? This of course is the root of the matter, but MATTHEW ARNOLD holds that the Catholic Church is left with a mighty power besides, in the beauty, the richness, the infinite charm for the imagination of its age-long growth. It is not in its dogma, and the confident assertion of dogma, that the English philosopher would place the source of strength and permanence to the Catholic Church, but in its poetry. Yet he does not hesitate to avow his conviction that from this source of superiority Catholicism has before it a great future—that it will endure while all the Protestant sects, in which for some unassigned reason he does not include the Church of England, dissolve and perish.

Centralization—Mr. Hewitt's Committee.

Mr. ABRAM S. HEWITT is Chairman of the Committee to investigate the causes of business and industrial depression, which was appointed at the last session of the House of Representatives, and is now holding its sessions in this city. The occupation, just at present, of this committee, is listening to complaints from workingmen, Socialists, Communists, and professional reformers.

Mr. ROBERT L. BARTHOLOMEE, a delegate of the Socialistic Labor Party, so called, was before the commission on Friday. Mr. BARTHOLOMEE expressed the opinion that a centralized Government would be better for the whole country. "The United States Government," he said, "should investigate all factories, and inquire into the condition of the persons employed." "The United States Constitution should be so amended that if the States did not enforce the law in regard to education and labor, the Federal Government should be able to do so."

Those doctrines are denounced as revolutionary. But in one respect it seems to us that Mr. BARTHOLOMEE's views are much more conservative than those of Mr. HEWITT and the House of Representatives. Mr. BARTHOLOMEE understands and concedes that it would require a change of the Constitution to give the general Government jurisdiction over such matters; whereas Mr. HEWITT thinks that the Government has jurisdiction under the Constitution as it is: else whence this committee?

Mr. BARTHOLOMEE is in favor of establishing centralization. Mr. HEWITT seems to go further, and to consider centralization already established.

The *New York Herald*—JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG—came out, yesterday, in favor of Gen. GRANT for a third term.

In another column we print an article on the collapse of the Cuban revolution, from *El Comercio*, the newspaper organ of the Government of Peru. Its tenor may not be flattering to our countrymen, but it is true. As a country we are justly held responsible by other nations for the sins of our Administrations. Peru, moreover, is properly entitled to read us this lesson on our apathetic shortcomings, for she alone, of all American republics, not only defied Spain by recognizing formally the independence of Cuba, but in her very embarrassing financial position she still managed to help Cuba with some material proofs of sympathy.

The rifle contests between teams from Great Britain and the United States were quite as much tests of weapons as of marksmanship. The English people long denied that American breech-loading rifles could be made to do such accurate shooting as did the muzzle loaders manufactured on their side of the water. The test in three international matches in which American marksmen were three times victorious settled the dispute in the minds of all observers here. The English press, however, was hardly satisfied. But the recent annual contests at Wimbledon let out the secret that the riflemen themselves prefer the American-made gun. The ALBERT prize was won with a REMINGTON, the next best score being made with a SHARPS's rifle, as was also the one that took third honor. Twelve rifles of American make took prizes in this day's competition. The boasted RIGBY weapon of European make was simply out of the contest, the weapons in competition being of different American manufacture.

The contest likewise proved that the old country marksmen have learned something about proper positions. An American discovered that by stretching out upon the grass with his feet toward the target, and resting his gun barrel between his feet, improved accuracy of aim was to be obtained. The American team adopted the position, and this year at Wimbledon the spectators were astonished to see three-fourths of the marksmen also firing over their toes.

Cholera created great havoc in Japan last year, beginning at Yokohama in September, and occasional cases reported as late as June 19 show that the poison of the disease has survived the winter. The epidemic extended to all parts of the empire last year, during the months of September, October, and November, with a mortality of 7,967 out of a total of 13,710 cases, or 581 deaths to 1,000 cases. No means have yet been instituted in Japan to prevent the importation of the disease from China, where it exists, and where the appalling famine furnishes the most favorable conditions for its reappearance in a more malignant form. At Calcutta and Bombay the cholera is also reaping a weekly harvest of deaths, but at last reports the disease had not attained alarming epidemic proportions.

The mystery of a cruel Pennsylvania murder has been dispelled through the confession of a woman. Last winter an aged couple named KINTZLER were murdered in their house near Trexlerville, and the building was set on fire. The charred remains were recovered from the embers and buried, and it was supposed that the crime had been committed to obtain some money, about $2,000, in possession of the old people. Now comes forward Miss SARAH HARTLEY, housekeeper for EMANUEL EDDINGER, and confesses that the crime was committed by EMANUEL, ISRAEL ERB, URIAH and JONATHAN MOYER, MOYER's wife, and herself; that they chloroformed the aged couple with the object of robbing them, and as the chloroform did not have the desired effect the victims were killed by blows. The confession is corroborated by strong evidence. The woman's conscience had become uneasy.

The *North American and Canadian Death Record*, of which Vol. I., No. 1 bears date Aug. 1, announces that "the regular army should be increased to 50,000 men." It is not surprising that a paper rejoicing in the grim title of *Death Record* should be in favor of increasing the army to 50,000 men.

It appears from the report of Agent CONNOYER of the Umatillas, that the chief blow inflicted on the hostiles, the slaughter and scalping of Chief EGAN and about twenty other warriors, was a simple piece of dastardly treachery, and not a fight at all. A party of agency Umatillas, it seems, first started on the warpath to join the Bannocks and Snakes; but afterward they concluded that they could make a better thing by helping the white soldiers, who needed them more. They accordingly agreed, in consideration of free pardon, and so on, to decoy EGAN by treachery where they could assassinate him. This proposition was accepted by our forces, and was easily carried out, as our allies had just been negotiating to join the hostiles. But the fact eliminates the largest part of the glory acquired by our troops in the Bannock campaign. It is not surprising to learn that the people of Pendleton, who profited by this double treachery of the Umatillas, now threaten to kill them if found off their reservation, viewing them with mingled distrust and disgust.

By to-night's train will be sent to Vera Cruz, under a strong guard, forty boxes, each containing $2,500, this being destined for the Mexican Minister at Washington as an installment of the $300,000 of the American debt, payable Jan. 31, 1879. Of the $100,000 thus forwarded, $80,000 is the result of the national collection made for that purpose, the remainder being taken from the Treasury.—*Mexican Letter in the San Francisco Post.*

Thus while the Fraudulent Administration at Washington is sparing no effort to goad the Mexicans into war, that nation is earnestly and honorably striving to carry out its obligations to the United States.

The story DANIEL PRATT told when brought face to face with the evidence that he had appropriated to his own use the contents of a pocketbook found by him was thin. He had hidden part of the money under a gaspipe, and he explained the location of the treasure by saying that he had entered the building containing the gaspipe to consult a lawyer as to what disposition he should make of his wealth, and had concealed the greenbacks for fear of being mistaken for a thief.

This is almost as gauzy as the JENKS woman's story of the authorship of the SHERMAN letter.

Work is the deadly enemy of tramps.—*Providence Journal.*

This assertion does not agree with facts and figures recently published in the Providence *Journal*, in an article on the Providence woodyard. The city of Providence offered lodging and a frugal meal to all tramps willing to chop a certain quantity of wood, and the *Journal* expressed surprise at the readiness with which the hungry and ragged applicants set about their task. The experience of the woodyard also showed, according to the *Journal*, that a very great proportion of so-called tramps were mechanics honestly in search of employment. Doubtless there are professional vagrants, who would rather wander and beg, or perhaps steal, than work, but to class all tramps together is unjust.

Rapid transit in Brooklyn has received a check. In New York, the elevated railroad schemes were for many years kept back by adverse legislation in Albany, but in the City of Churches the Common Council, and the Corporation Counsel, and the Mayor are the hindering causes. Nevertheless rapid transit is a necessity that sooner or later must bring the Brooklyn authorities to terms. The suburbs are particularly suitable for the erection of dwellings. Indeed, it may be said that there is scarcely any limit to the possibilities of the city's growth. A rapid transit road would place thousands of available building sites within fifteen minutes' ride of Fulton Ferry, and add greatly to the city's population.

Prof. GRAHAM and Mr. ANTHONY HIGGINS of Jersey City, the one a phrenologist and the other a disciple of spiritualism, are not only in a novel dispute, but are using novel methods to settle it. The former called the latter a sneak and a flathead. The latter retorted not less pointedly, and challenged the Professor to a public phrenological examination of their respective heads to determine which had the brains and which hadn't. The spectacle of the Professor examining his enemy's cranium was accordingly enjoyed by a number of spectators who gathered in a public hall on Friday evening. What he said of Mr. HIGGINS is elsewhere reproduced, as is also Mr. HIGGINS's estimate of Prof. GRAHAM. The Professor, however, having had his innings, refused to allow his rival to make the promised examination until a future meeting. In the week of suspense that must intervene before the spiritualist gets his fingers into the Professor's hair, the public may calmly reflect upon the discretion possessed by persons who make this sort of an exhibition of themselves.

Why have any election in Michigan this year? Let CHANDLER direct the State Returning Board (State Canvassers) to declare who are elected without the expensive formality of an election. They can readily assume how many Republican votes should be counted and how many Democrats disfranchised, and in this way easily determine the result.—*Jackson Patriot.*

The persons appointed to office by the method suggested above would have quite as good a title to their positions as the Fraudulent President has to the Presidential chair.

The Greenback candidate for Mayor is RICHARD SCHELL, Esq. We see that he is ugly, but we feel that he is great.

How Farmer Landis Caught a Rattlesnake.

ADDISON, N. Y., Aug. 2.—As Jacob Landis of Erwin, was twisting the wisp around a sheaf of wheat a large rattlesnake sprang out from the straw directly toward his face. The farmer mechanically threw his hand out and caught the snake around the neck just in time to prevent its fastening its fangs in his nose. He held the snake firmly in his hand and called for aid. A companion reaper ran up and cut the serpent's head off with a sythe. The rattlesnake had wound itself so tightly about Landis's bare arm that a broad red mark on his flesh showed every coil. The snake was three and a half feet long. It had nine rattles.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN EUROPE.

The English Parliament devoted the whole of the week to the debate on Lord Hartington's resolution. Abusive and tedious speeches have been delivered on both sides of the House, the result being the rejection of the resolution of the Liberals and the adoption of Mr. Plunkett's amendment expressing confidence in the Ministry. A division of the House showed a majority of 143 for the Government. This is another triumph for Lord Beaconsfield. But all this does not alter the fact that the mass of the English people are discontented with the new burdens imposed upon them, and the new responsibilities which the Government has undertaken. The principle of personal government which Lord Beaconsfield has unquestionably introduced into English politics is a very dangerous one. Though the English as a body politic are very different from the French, there is a good deal of similarity between Lord Beaconsfield's recent triumphal entry into the good city of London, and Napoleon's entry into Paris on his return from Villafranca. The French Legislature expressed at that time its confidence in the policy of the Government in a still more emphatic manner. The proceedings of Beaconsfield are very much like those of Napoleon III. The *Truth* says:

The *mot d'ordre* has been given to all the Conservative organizations to beat the big drum, and to sing, "Rule Britannia." Public opinion is to be "rushed." All who dare to question the wisdom of the Premier are to be denounced as wanting in patriotism. This is to be the programme of the next general election, for it is feared that when the time comes for paying the bill for all Lord Beaconsfield's fireworks, the enthusiasm in favor of them, unless artificially kept up, will be considerably damped.

Yet, with a great many people, the Cyprus fever still continues. Everybody wants to go there, and to try to make money in the newly-acquired island. The public interest in Cyprus is so great that the inevitable Mr. Cook has started with a large party on a personally-conducted tour over the island. The programme includes a visit to the scene of the murder of Desdemona and the suicide of Othello.

In Spain the feud in the royal family continues to be the exciting topic of popular interest. At the instance of the King's sister, the Princess of Asturias, six Madrid journals have been prosecuted for having hinted that Queen Mercedes was poisoned. The Princess attended upon her sister-in-law during her illness, and naturally feels outraged by such hints, although they are aimed, not at her, but at her mother's partisans.

The ex-Queen wished to return to Spain to console her son; but he refused to be consoled by her, and seems to prefer the society of the Montpensier family. Seeing that all her attempts to return to Madrid were in vain, Isabella retired a few days ago to a country seat she has recently purchased, near Rothschild's Chateau of Ferrières. Referring to the sale of her diamonds, the *Truth* says:

Little more than a third of the ancestral jewels of the Spanish Bourbons which Alphonso claimed as his own and Isabella sustained were hers, have been brought to the hammer. They were badly sold. An erroneous notion prevailed that Queen Isabella's title was not good, and that purchasers would expose themselves to litigation. In Spain she could not have alienated them, nor in France, if a Frenchwoman. What she had to go upon was that they were in her possession, and she did not steal them. The Prince attempted to extradite her for carrying them out of Spain. Dufaure, to whom Thiers submitted the matter, decided that she was wrong in taking them into France, but that French Judges were not competent to force her to give them up. Her Majesty had technically committed no breach of confidence. She profited by the carelessness of the officer on whom the custody of the gems properly devolved. Though a keen woman of business, the ex-Queen managed badly the sale of her diamonds. Jewellers, who had combined to buy them up cheaply, packed the auction room with men of straw, whose business it was to keep away persons out of the trade who came to purchase. Nobody here had the faintest idea of the treasures her Majesty's caskets held until they were on show at the Hotel Drouot. Those that were sold for less than three millions of francs will perhaps bring in from seven to eight millions of francs to the buyers. Some of the splendid things did not come to the Queen by inheritance. It was a rule of hers, whenever a loan was contracted, to buy herself a new suite of ornaments.

The question of the property of the late Queen Mercedes has been settled without any difficulty, according to the *Whitehall Review*:

The Duc de Montpensier, having been informed that the King had decided to deliver up to him all belonging to the unfortunate Princess, declined distinctly to countenance such an arrangement, and earnestly requested the young widower to keep all. Alphonso XII. therefore remains in possession of the palace of Castilleja de la Cuesta, near Seville (one of the most beautiful in all Spain), and of the jewels of his late wife. The income (yet untouched) arising from the late Queen's dowry the King has directed to be distributed in public charities.

The French watering place season has fully opened, and it makes one smile when the extravagant dressing at Newport and Saratoga is spoken of. Seldom do you find there a lady, however fashionable she may be, who appears in more than three costumes a day. The French and English fashionable journals, on the other hand, enumerating the grand total of the *de rigueur* dressing at Biarritz, Trouville, and similar fashionable watering places, make out the following list: 1. A morning dress for bathing or drinking the waters. 2. Another toilette for breakfast. 3. A costume for the afternoon parade. 4. Another for the table d'hôte dinner. 5. Another for ball or theatre at the casino. This is the minimum. Afternoon visits and drives imply, of course, at least one toilette more. And all this dressing is called rest and summer holiday!

Men of fashion have discovered a way to express their political opinions by means of the flowers they wear in their buttonholes. A white pink, a blue cornflower, and a red rose, for instance, means the tricolor flag.

Yet, the extravagance of French women notwithstanding, the country seems to be constantly growing richer and richer. The *Statist*, one of the best papers of its kind, compares in a recent issue the growth of the French and English capital accumulations by the respective amounts liable in the two countries for succession and legacy duty. It appears that in 1859 France paid on £85,000,000, and the United Kingdom on £94,000,000. In 1876 France paid on £188,000,000, and the United Kingdom on £149,000,000. These figures would indicate that whereas in 1859 the United Kingdom had more accumulated capital than France, in 1876 the accumulated capital of France was in excess of that of the United Kingdom. Still more remarkable is it that France, notwithstanding her loss of provinces and waste of money during the Prusso-French war, is richer now than she was before 1870—the figures being, 1869, £145,000,000; 1876, £188,000,000.

The English generally believe that they produce more, but consume more too, than the French, and that it is the saving faculty of the latter that makes them rich. That the mass of the French people are frugal and thrifty almost to meanness cannot be questioned, but this is not their only way of getting rich. They grow in prosperity because everything they do is done artistically. The mass of the English work is solid, but rough and clumsy. To the Frenchman's hand a piece of brass worth about 50 cents is turned into a work of art or an article of vertu worth several hundred francs. He can save more on his daily labor, and in this is the secret of his prosperity.

The Russian Government, after having made up the account of its losses in men and money, has now made up the number of shots the army has fired. From an account published in the *Invalide Russe* it appears that the Russian troops in the Balkan Peninsula fired, in round numbers, 205,000 shells and 10,000,000 rifle cartridges. Keeping in view that the number of killed and wounded Turks amounted to about 200,000 men it appears that it takes something like fifty-two cannon and rifle shot (mixed) to kill or wound one man.

The English have treated the heterogeneous world of Paris to some original music of theirs. The prominent conductors were Leslie, Randegger, and Arthur Sullivan. The experiment was not a success, although the Prince of Wales did his best to make it one. Speaking of these concerts the *Daily News* says:

The concerts which have been given do not seem to have excited any feeling of enthusiasm among their hearers, nor is it, perhaps, to be expected that they should have so done. So long as the English public are themselves content to regard the performance of foreign music as the chief object of a singer's aspirations, we can hardly hope that native composers will arise in large numbers. However, the French auditory had at any rate a tolerably varied programme set before them. Of the operatic music which they principally admire we could not give them much. Despite the meritorious efforts of some recent writers, English opera always seems to resolve itself into Balfe and Wallace, Wallace and Balfe. The large admixture of sacred music which was admitted must be confessed to have been a mistake, whether we look at the necessity of fairly representing English art or of judiciously consulting French taste. Even in England the mania for oratorios has very much died out. There was a time not a hundred years ago when an oratorio was the sole variety of musical entertainment which the average middle class Englishman or Englishwoman attended. We have, thanks to causes too many to mention, changed all that, and it is no longer necessary for a person who is supposed to be musical to attend his "Messiah" once a year. But if we have cooled in our affection for oratorios, the French have certainly not warmed toward them. It is, however, really a proof of the determined politeness with which the French have treated all things English at their festival, that they should have accorded so favorable a reception to our composers and performers.

The fact is, that a gentleman in evening dress reciting, with orchestra accompaniment, passages from the Prophets and Gospels, will always excite in the mind of any offspring of the Latin race combined ideas of incongruity and tedium.

N. L. T.

SUNBEAMS.

—Twelve English clergymen have in one month joined the Church of Rome.

—Talmage resumes operations to-day, and a crowd may be expected at the Brooklyn Tabernacle.

—Philip Phillips has been giving some of his "song services" at Ocean Grove with great acceptance.

—Now it is the Park Congregational Church, Norwich, Conn., that calls the Rev. Leonard Woolsey Bacon.

—Each convict in the State Prison at Concord is allowed to take one religious paper. More than 100 subscribe to the *Boston Pilot*.

—An English clergyman characterizes the leading parties in the church as Attitudinarians, Latitudinarians, and Platitudinarians.

—The new Cathedral in Fifth avenue progresses finely toward completion. In less than two months it will be open to visitors.

—Evangelist Amanda Smith, the colored lady, has gone to England, where as warm a welcome awaits her as she found in Brooklyn.

—"A new pipe organ with sixteen stops, and no debt upon it," is what is just now making a Massachusetts church particularly happy.

—Jung Wong Joo has been ordained Baptist missionary in Salem, Oregon, and will labor for the conversion of his benighted countrymen in that region.

—There is a university in New Zealand which confers degrees, said to be as good as any in England. Let the yet untitled clergymen of this land give attention.

—Arrangements are in progress by which the valuable library of the late Dr. Fish of Newark will be placed at the disposal of the ministers of Newark for their permanent use.

—The Methodists have completed, at Martha's Vineyard, a neat chapel for service on minor occasions, and on rainy days when the canvas pavilion can not be used with comfort.

—The widow Van Cott, having done considerable Evangelical work in San Francisco, goes across the ferry to Oakland and opens fire to-day on the strongholds of Satan in that place.

—A Chinese Tract Society has been organized in Shanghai on a plan quite similar to that of the American Tract Society of this country. Half of its board of managers will be native Chinese Christians; the other half missionaries resident in China.

—A Presbyterian has issued a book called "Baptism in a Nutshell." A Baptist paper jocosely remarks the appropriateness of this for Presbyterian brethren, as a nutshell will hold enough water for purposes of sprinkling. The Baptist, however, prefers "Baptism in the Baptistery."

—As the Rev. R. W. Pearson is allowed to retain his pastorate of the Fourth Baptist Church in Pittsburgh, a number of the members of that church who do not believe in him have withdrawn and organized a new church. They meet in the old Union Church in Grant street, and take its name.

—The city clergyman who told the singers in a country choir that the angels ought to come down from heaven and wring their necks, was considered to have no music in his soul. The stout soprano said she would like to go for him and wring his neck without calling for the assistance of any of the angels.

—The advertisement of the day's services in a Methodist church said, "the preacher is a man of marked peculiarities." Another church advertised a sermon on the subject of "Before and Behind." The ushers at such churches should arrive early, for a curious multitude will naturally throng the seats to know what odd things will be said and done.

—The Brooklyn papers are hauling Dr. Cuyler over the coals for going to the Chinese theatre in San Francisco, as his opposition to theatre going has been outspoken. But his friends say that there could not be much harm in going to such a theatre as that, for the Doctor could not understand a word of what was spoken. It is not generally supposed that his morals have suffered from the visit.

—A country deacon went, on a free ticket, to a circus entertainment. His pastor remonstrated with him on the wickedness of so doing. But he made answer: "Why, you see, pastor, I had a deadhead ticket, and I thought it my bounden duty to go and keep somebody out of that seat who might have been harmed by the circus." The pastor accepted the deacon's explanation as about half satisfactory.

—Pastor Mulford of the Baptist Church in Somerville, N. J., has been surprised, and not by the old-fashioned donation party which ate the minister's provisions and left him nothing worth having. The good women of the congregation brought a new carpet, a wagon load of furniture, and eatables enough to last for several weeks. In addition to this they brought a cornet band, and a joyful noise was made by the guests lasting until it was time to go home.

—Bishop Simpson of the Methodist Church is enjoying an extended Western tour. Next Wednesday he is to open the Colorado Conference at Golden. Bishop Andrews will preside at the Montana Conference, which begins on Thursday at Virginia City. Bishop Harris closed the Washington Conference this week, and returns to his home in this city. Bishop Haven, who is generally absent from his home at Atlanta, is refreshing himself with the salt breezes of Martha's Vineyard.

—The "mass temperance meetings," a series of which has just been held on the camp ground at Merrick, Long Island, were remarkable for the slimness of the congregations. One of the troubles was that no great amount of public interest was felt in the cause; the other was that the mosquitoes turned out in such force as to make their attentions exceedingly annoying. The Sunday school convention or congress which was spoken of for Merrick has been postponed.

—To add to the attractions of the preaching of Mr. Rossvalley, the converted Jew, it is announced that during the services he will sing some hymns in Hebrew and English. Almost anybody can sing a hymn in the English language, but to sing in Hebrew is an accomplishment which ought to crowd any church, even if the singing should prove to be somewhat inharmonious. In the multitude of pulpit novelties now advertised, nothing is too odd to be put into active service.

—The new Baptist Tabernacle at Martha's Vineyard is to be dedicated on the 18th of this month. It is an immense wooden pavilion, looking something like a pagoda, and capable of sheltering 3,000 persons. Dr. Eddy, Dr. Hague, and several other eminent Baptists, and Bishop Foster of the Methodist Church, will take part in the dedication services. For smaller meetings the Baptists have erected a pleasant chapel, which will be dedicated during the week of service which will succeed the tabernacle dedication.

—"Chautauqua" now opens with its rich bill of fare, better and larger than in any previous year. Under the generalship of Dr. Vincent and his large corps of able helpers, the grounds have been improved, new buildings erected, and all manner of new facilities introduced. From a Sunday School Assembly, Chautauqua has grown into a summer university, where the most eminent lecturers and instructors give lessons and drills and discourses of the most practical and valuable kind. Already a multitude is on the grounds, about 40 miles from Buffalo, and the number is daily increasing. The services will last till Aug. 22.

—The Pan-Anglican Synod, in session at Lambeth Palace, does not seem to command the general admiration which might be expected for so august a body, composed of Bishops from all over the world. The prominent church journals of London express the opinion that as a mere gathering it is without any particular force, unless some good reason can be shown for bringing so many august persons together. The pompousness and exclusiveness with which the venerable gentlemen have put out the representatives of the press lead many persons to believe that much of what is said and done inside the closed doors is not worth reporting.

—On the 28th of August the House of Bishops will assemble in Grace Chapel on business of such great importance that the Presiding Bishop has urgently requested the attendance of each one who can make it possible to be present. It is supposed that the important business has something to do with the case of Bishop McCoskry, who steps down and out of the bishopric and of the ministry under the painful circumstances which have recently been made public. It is hoped that the Bishops who are now abroad will shorten their journeyings so as to [illegible] trip. Bishop McCoskry [illegible] tion of returning [illegible] of his [illegible]

—A reporter went on Sunday to the Rev. Dr. Arthur Mitchell of Chicago to ask for a copy of the sermon he had just preached. Dr. [illegible] fused to give it to him, on the ground that [illegible] would be Sunday breaking. He said the [illegible] have it on any week day, but that he [illegible] countenance so much Sunday labor as would be [illegible] in putting the sermon in type for Monday's paper. The reporter vainly urged that Monday papers are a necessity, and that much of the work on them [illegible] done on Sunday. Here Dr. Mitchell [illegible] and said that the Monday newspaper ought to be prepared on Saturday. The Doctor said, however, that if a shorthand reporter chose to take down his sermon on Sunday while it was being delivered, he should make no objection, the responsibility in that case being entirely with the shorthand man. The fact that other Chicago clergymen freely give their manuscripts to reporters had no weight with Dr. Mitchell.